

Service for Peace
September 22, 2024
First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 South Moore Street
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845

Gathering Music

Welcome

Opening Litany

Leader: We gather as part of God's great diversity.

All: Made in their image, you and I.

Leader: We sing the Creator's love song of life.

All: Giving voice to the sacred, deep in our hearts.

Leader: We risk hope as the Jesus movement.

All: Called to bold discipleship in our time.

Leader: We embrace the Spirit who moves in and through.

All: Pressing us to daring conspiracies of love, justice, and peace.

Leader: Holy Three, Holy One, we come together in worship.

Song: "Great God of Earth and Heaven" #579 New Century Hymnal

Opening Prayer

(prayed together)

Our God who was, is, and is to be... We pray for peace. We pray for a peace that is beyond our understanding...beyond our limited vision, hopes, and dreams. We pray for an end of the reign of violence in our communities and in our world. We pray for an end to war. War that kills our people, desecrates our Earth, depletes our resources and our joy. We pray for an end to poverty that keeps millions from living lives of dignity, lives without basic needs. As we gather for this service for peace, let us join with all of God's creation to pray for Shalom. Your Shalom. Deep peace. Just Peace. For the peace that can only come from You. May your kingdom come, God, your peace reign, your justice roll, your Spirit move, your love inspire...Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 59:1-17, 21

Meditation

"Agents for Peace"

Special Offering

(Our offering today will be given to the Carter Center for Peace.)

Closing Prayer

(prayed together)

God of peace, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding on to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead anyone to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we are all created. Amen.

Closing Song

"Community of Christ"

#615

Going Forth in/for Peace

Leader: Let your hearts be ruled by the peace of Christ, to which indeed we are called in one body. And be thankful.

All: May the words of Jesus dwell in us richly, teaching and admonishing us in all wisdom.

Leader: Sing psalms and hymns, spiritual songs, and songs of peace with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

All: Whatever we do, in word or deed, we will do everything in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, giving thanks to God our Creator through him.

The Call to Worship (adapted) is from the United Church of Canada. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by *Craig M. Watts, Co-Moderator of the Disciples Peace Fellowship*. The Response to the Word (adapted) and Going Forth (adapted) are from the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Peace and Justice Ministries. The Closing Prayer is *A Prayer for World Peace, 1978*, author unknown

2024 Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the [Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace](#).

In that declaration, the United Nations' most inclusive body recognized that peace "not only is the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation."

In a world with rising geopolitical tensions and protracted conflicts, there has never been a better time to remember how the UN General Assembly came together in 1999 to lay out the values needed for a culture of peace. These include: respect for life, human rights and fundamental freedoms; the promotion of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation; commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts; and adherence to freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

In follow-up resolutions, the General Assembly recognized further the importance of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other.

The Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) starts with the notion that "wars begin in the minds of men so it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed". It is this notion that framed the theme and logo of this year's observance of the International Day of Peace. The ideas of peace, the culture of peace, need to be cultivated in the minds of children and communities through formal and informal education, across countries and generations.

The International Day of Peace has always been a time to lay down weapons and observe ceasefires. But it now must also be a time for people to see each other's humanity. Our survival as a global community depends on that.

The International Day of Peace was [established](#) in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to [designate](#) the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.



Prthvee par shaanti - Hindi

hoà Bình trên trái đất - Vietnamese

karapihan di bumiho - Sundanese
Vietnamese

pace sulla Terra - Italian

mir na Zem - Russian

Shìjiè héping - Chinese

kapayapaan sa daigdig - Filipino

Peace on Earth - English

jigue pyeonghwa - Korean

Great God of Earth and Heaven

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Traditional English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

KING'S LYNN

7.6.7.6.D.

Unison

1. Great God of earth and heav - en whose Spir - it is our breath,
2. While ref - u - gees go home - less and die be - fore they live,
3. Where hun - ger kills your peo - ple, in - jus - tice cries a - loud,

at Christ - mas - time born hu - man, at Eas - ter shared our death:
while chil - dren have no fu - ture—our ap - a - thy for - give!
while weap - ons grow more le - thal and on - ly power stands proud—

all - gen - er - ous, all - lov - ing, in whom all beau - ty thrives—
where hope fades to de - pres - sion, de - spair e - rodes the soul,
God of our flesh and fi - ber, whose mer - cy does not cease,

for - give your sons and daugh - ters the com - fort of our lives!
re - store in us a pas - sion to make the bro - ken, whole.
im - plant your mind with - in us, cre - ate a world for peace!

Community of Christ

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,
live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,
whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)
MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)
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LEONI
6.6.8.4.D.